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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sex Offenders Under P&P's Watchful Eye this Halloween**  
*Alexandria District Holds Educational Session to Update Offenders*

**(Alexandria)** Trick-or-treating. Black cats and witches. Skeletons and scary costumes. Halloween is approaching and the Alexandria District Probation and Parole Office wants kids in central Louisiana to enjoy fright night.

That's why, for the third straight year, the Alexandria District Office will be hosting an educational session on **Friday, October 31, 2008** for all sex offenders residing in the six-parish area that it serves (Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle and Rapides parishes). The aim is to keep all sex offenders, especially those that are under supervision, away from any contact with children on that night, as well as to update offenders on any new and/or revised laws and to review compliance issues with them. Only those sex offenders under supervision of Probation & Parole who have a valid and verified reason for not attending the meeting (night job, etc.) may be excused, but they still must not have any contact with children.

"Supervised sex offenders at home on Halloween night have been advised to turn off their lights, to not open doors and to avoid contact with children," said Jeffrey Gaspard, Alexandria's District Office Administrator. "Whether at the meeting or at home, we greatly reduce the potential risk to our children."

Attendance requirement at the educational meeting only applies to those sex offenders who are under probation or parole supervision. Those convicted sex offenders not under formal Probation & Parole supervision are encouraged to attend the class, both to learn of the new laws passed that may affect their status, as well as those sex offenders who want to avoid accusations of misconduct during trick-or-treating hours. Past meetings have been extremely successful in terms of both attendance and educating sex offenders of applicable laws and expectations.

“Probation and Parole is an active partner with all Law Enforcement in working toward a safe community this Halloween and all throughout the year,” said Michael D. Wynne, Probation & Parole District Office Coordinator for Sex Offender matters. “Parents, however, are still the key to making sure their child’s experience is safe and fun.”

Contact with the Alexandria P&P District Office can be made by calling 318-487-5301.

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